

WASTEFUL STATE PROGRAMS

1. PAYING FOR GOVERNMENT “CONFERENCES” AT RESORTS

One of many expensive conferences involved spending thousands of dollars for Public Health Officers to meet in Half Moon Bay at a resort with rooms costing at least \$235 per night.

Money wasted: Thousands at this conference and unknown per year.

2. HOLLYWOOD WORKPLACE PROGRAM

Job training and placement for those Hollywood types who are down on their luck.

Why the average California taxpayer is providing this service instead of the multimillionaires and billionaires of Hollywood is one we can't figure out. It's time for Hollywood to pay its fair share.

Wasted: \$2.5 million this fiscal year.

3. PAYING FOR OBSOLETE INFRASTRUCTURE

The Governor proposes to shift \$8.2 billion worth of direct program costs from the state to counties but leaves state operations for the programs intact. Why pay for an infrastructure that no longer has reason to exist?

Savings: Unknown annually.

4. BENEFITS FOR THOSE INELIGIBLE OR NOT IN NEED

The state often adopts requirements above the federal minimum, which opens the state to expensive litigation and huge mandate claims. For example, the state will be spending \$187.9 million (total funds) to provide Medi-Cal benefits to persons who are no longer eligible for SSI/SSP. A court case determined the state has to provide these transitional benefits to those terminated from SSI/SSP as well as those leaving welfare.

Savings: \$187.9 million + unknown on all the other programs.

5. REFUSE TO SCALE BACK STATE-ONLY PROGRAMS IN TIME OF FISCAL CRISIS

Continue to provide optional “state-only” programs, even during fiscal crises, and at a costs of tens of millions of dollars per year.

Savings: Unknown

6. SPENDING TO PRESERVE PREVIOUS YEAR’S ALLOCATION

In order to preserve the previous year's level of funding, bureaucracies spend wildly at the end of the fiscal year to show a need for that money during the upcoming budget allocations.

Savings: Unknown millions.

7. NO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

Little accountability for performance (given civil service protections). Those wasting taxpayers dollars are seldom removed.

Savings: Unknown

8. PAYING FOR CARS AND PARKING PRIVILEGES FOR SENIOR STAFF

Why is the state providing new cars and parking spaces for people making close to and in some cases more than \$100,000 per year. Aren't they getting enough of the taxpayer's dollars in their paychecks?

Savings: Unknown

9. PROVIDING CELL PHONES AND PAGERS TO SENIOR STAFF

Why is the state providing cell phones, pagers, and other personal devices for a large number of top- and middle-range managers, even for those who rarely travel.

Savings: Unknown

10. COMPUTER SYSTEMS THAT DON'T WORK AND DON'T INTEGRATE

The state rarely creates an effective data collection system. Neither are these systems ever on budget. Continual waste whether at the DMV or CSU systems.

Savings: Millions upon millions

11. PERSONAL USE OF STATE EARNED AIRLINE MILES

Employees traveling on the state dime put those miles on their personal frequent flier cards and never transfer those miles to any state account. These miles could be used to gain free trips for state business and save the taxpayer that money.

Savings: Unknown

12. PAYING FOR VISITOR PARKING IN LOS ANGELES

The Los Angeles Unified School District spends \$1.5 million annually to pay for employee and visitor parking near their new downtown LA headquarters – money that could be going to classrooms. LAUSD's union contracts prohibit the district from charging its employees a fee to recoup the costs.

Savings: \$1.5 million per year

13. DATA CENTER FUNDING

Current funding for the Health and Human Services data center is based on past growth, not actual demand.

Savings: \$7.2 million.

14. DUPLICATIVE COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR IN HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

In home supportive services claims they need a new system. The present system does the job. The waste should be eliminated.

Savings: \$795,000 in fiscal '03-'04.

15. ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

An electronic benefit transfer funding system is being purchased. The purchase should be eliminated.

Savings: \$7.5 million dollars.

16. NEW LABOR AGENCY

A duplicative agency. Other departments are already doing this job. Eliminate the creation of a new agency.

Savings: \$2.3 million annually.

17. DUPLICATIVE DATA CENTERS

Presently the state funds the Teale Data Center and the Health and Human Services Agency Data Center, and the Legislative Data Center. Why does California need three separate major data centers? Quit funding duplicative agencies.

Savings: At least \$4 million annually.

18. THE URBAN FISHING PROGRAM

This program funds outreach activities including the production and distribution of pamphlets and brochures emphasizing leisure fishing in the city.

Wasted: \$100,000

19. DUPLICATIVE WETLANDS MAPPING

Fish and Game maps wetlands. This function is duplicative of mapping done by other agencies.

Savings: \$145,000

20. SPECIAL INTEREST CARVE-OUTS

The State gave \$250,000 to special interest non-profit groups to build a new facility for the Boys and Girls Club in Napa Valley.

Savings: \$250,000

21. TEDDY BEAR HANDOUT

Teddy bears handed out to citizens encouraging them to fill out their 2000 census forms.

Wasted: \$125,000

22. 24 HOUR-A-DAY TV WATCHING (OES)

Have staff stationed in a secured room (known as the Warning Center) on a 24-hour basis to watch network newscasts.

Savings: \$200,000

23. HORSE RADISH WITH THAT PRIME RIB?

Folsom prison recently had to fill an urgent order for horse radish because some prisoners felt that prime rib night would not be the same without it.

Savings: Thousands misspent for meals

24. OBSOLETE REPORTS

State agencies are required to submit numerous interim and annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature. Some of the reports are obsolete and no longer critical to present-day decision making, but state agencies are still mandated to produce these reports.

Savings: Potentially hundreds of thousands of dollars.

25. NEW DISTRICT CENTER

In a time of fiscal crisis, the conservation corps proposes to replace the district center near Porterville. Neither fire danger nor life threatening issues seem to be the motivation. Certainly this could be put off.

Savings: \$14,400,000

26. CONSERVATION CORPS

In a time of fiscal crisis, the conservation corps wants to acquire and construct a new location for the Tahoe area office. Certainly this extremely costly capital outlay could be put off.

Savings: \$18,400,000

27. BOATING AND WATERWAYS

Tax-subsidized loans to maintain and develop privately-owned marinas.

Savings: \$3,500,000

28. BOATING AND WATERWAYS

Grants to remove abandoned watercraft.

Savings: \$500,000

29. BOATING AND WATERWAYS

Grants to build and maintain watercraft launching areas.

Savings: \$19,581,000

30. HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

Another bond of almost \$10 billion for high-speed rail planning.

Savings: \$10,000,000,000

31. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Oak woodlands restoration. In areas that may or may not have had oak trees, property designated by the board is bought to plant trees. Without prejudice to the merits of ecological protection we question the need to spend \$5 million dollars in time of fiscal crisis to plant oak trees.

Savings: \$5,000,000

32. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

Open space land acquisition for public access. Property designated by the board is bought and set aside. Although it is important to maintain open land for recreational purposes, should the state engage in land acquisition in the face of a \$35 billion deficit?

Savings: \$500,000

33. NEW HQ FOR CORRECTIONS

The Department of Corrections wants a new multimillion headquarters building instead of the building they have now.

Savings: \$160,000,000

34. PARKS AND RECREATION

The state pays over \$1 million annually to change bulletins primarily at roadside visitor centers.

Savings: \$1,134,000

35. PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and Rec is slated to construct a new lifeguard station at Doheny beach. Presently the beach has a life guard tower. Is it necessary during a time of a \$35 billion deficit to spend as much on a new lifeguard tower as many people spend on their homes?

Savings: \$191,000

36. PARKS AND RECREATION

Interpretative exhibits program. How critical is it for the state to spend \$1 million annually displaying interpretive art?

Savings: \$1,000,000 annually.

37. DECORATIVE BERM

The state spent \$185,000 building a decorative berm to hide a fence on the perimeter of Napa State Hospital.

Wasted: \$185,000

38. GIVING AWAY BILLIONS

In order to get all the money at one time, the state bartered away billions of tobacco settlement dollars by taking less money to receive a lump sum payment.

Wasted: \$6.5 billion

39. DUPLICATIVE TAX COLLECTING AGENCIES

Franchise Tax Board & Board of Equalization tax collection agencies. Why does California maintain two entirely separate taxing agencies ?

Savings: Millions

40. TRADE AND COMMERCE FOREIGN TRADE OFFICES

Ineffective pork offices. Trade isn't based on the cunning and smooth talk of political appointees; it is based on supply and demand.

Savings: \$3.4 million

41. TRADE AND COMMERCE FILM CALIFORNIA FIRST

Movie industry film permit subsidy. A subsidy that takes money from blue collar taxpayers whose median income is in the \$20,000s and gives money to the multimillionaires of Hollywood.

Savings: \$8.2 million

42. GIVING AWAY FREE CALENDARS

Office of the state printer gives free state calendars to state employees.

Savings: \$50,000

43. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Does anyone still believe that a state commission can change the status of women? The entire Commission should be eliminated.

Savings: \$400,000

44. BOARD OF GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICS

Entire Board.

Savings: \$1.1 million

45. HEARING AID DISPENSERS BUREAU

Entire Bureau.

Savings: \$560,000

46. BUREAU OF ELECTRONIC APPLIANCE REPAIR

Entire Bureau.

Savings: \$1.65 million

47. BUREAU OF TELEPHONE MEDICAL ADVICE SERVICES

Entire Bureau.

Savings: \$140,000

48. ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

Entire Board.

Savings: \$2 million

49. BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

Entire Bureau.

Savings: \$3.5 million

50. ARTS COUNCIL

In a state that produces more art than most countries, why is government subsidy for the arts needed?

Savings: \$13.5 million

51. OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH

This appendage of the Governor's Office operates a Cesar Chavez Community Service Grant program. The services are duplicative of a plethora of other state programs.

Savings: \$5 million

52. DUPLICATIVE DISCRIMINATION AGENCY

Fair employment and housing discrimination programs – Let the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission do its job.

Savings: \$18 million

53. LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

Studies on Government Efficiency. Have they studied themselves lately?

Savings: \$867,000

54. PRISONER ART

The state of California funds an “Arts in Prison” program. Eliminate the program.

Savings: \$1.2 million

55. FUNDING NON-ESSENTIAL MEDICAL COSTS

The state of California provides hormones and drugs for prisoners who have elected to have sex change surgery.

Savings: Unknown

56. EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS?

State funds funneled to San Francisco District Attorney is wasted by a DA who is notorious for failing to prosecute criminals to the fullest extent of the law.

Savings: \$200,000

57. EXTENDING BENEFITS TO SAME SEX COUPLES

The state employees’ retirement system incurs major costs to provide health and retirement benefits to same sex couples.

Savings: Unknown

58. CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICED RENTS

Relocate from high cost San Francisco rental space to less expensive space elsewhere saving \$3 per square foot.

Savings: \$31,000

59. HEALTH SERVICES EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICED RENTS

Relocate from high cost SF rental space to less expensive space elsewhere saving \$3 per square foot.

Savings: \$84,000

60. INSURANCE DEPARTMENT EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICED RENTS

Relocate from high cost SF rental space to less expensive space elsewhere saving \$3 per square foot.

Savings: \$190,000

61. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICED RENTS

Relocate from high cost SF rental space to less expensive space elsewhere saving \$3 per square foot.

Savings: \$76,000

62. EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT EXCESSIVELY HIGH PRICED RENTS

Relocate from high cost SF rental space to less expensive space elsewhere saving \$3 per square foot.

Savings: \$255,000

63. YOUNTVILLE VETERANS HOSPITAL ACUTE CARE TREATMENT

This program treats only 36 veterans a year, and all the cases are duplicative of what can be treated in privately. Cutting the acute care program would not affect the other vital services provided to veterans.

Savings: At least \$2 million annually.

64. CASEWORKER OVERSPENDING ON CHILD WELFARE CASES

Average spending per case for child welfare cases varies county to county. Statewide average is \$135,000 per case, but some counties like Santa Clara spend as much as \$177,000 per case.

Eleven counties should cut waste and come into line with the statewide average

Savings: \$20.8 million annually.

65. EXCESS FOSTER CARE VISITS

The state budgets for monthly visits to foster homes in addition to problem complaints. Federal standards are every three months. Change to the federal standard.

Savings: \$7.5 million annually.

66. UNACCOUNTED EXPENSES BY CHILD SUPPORT BUREAUCRATS

Bureaucrats in the child support system are unable or unwilling to explain \$26.4 million for fiscal year '03-'04.

Savings: 26.4 million annually.

67. PAYING FOR NON-EXISTENT CHILD SUPPORT CASELOAD

Presently when a department loses caseload, the state does not decrease funding accordingly.

Savings: \$11 million for fiscal '03-'04.

68. FOOD STAMP WASTE

A 17.4 percent error rate in the program and hundreds of millions of dollars to ineligibles and federal fines due to the ineptitude of the program. The program should be cleaned up.

Savings: At least \$125 million annually.

69. WELFARE STUDY

A study of time limits on the welfare system. This study is made even worse by the fact that some want to cut services, rather than studies like this that mean nothing.

Savings: \$1 million dollars.

70. IMMIGRANT FOOD STAMPS

Recently the state has started picking up the tab for immigrant food stamps. The state should insist that people and organization who sponsored peoples' entry into the country pick up the tab.

Savings: \$11.2 million for '03-'04.

71. IMMIGRANT WELFARE

The federal government does not provide welfare to immigrants; California does. The state should make sponsors pick up the tab.

Savings: \$95 million annually.

72. QUESTIONABLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSTRUCTION COSTS

Rather than renovate unused or underutilized facilities, community colleges are entering into new construction projects.

Savings: Up to \$562 million '03-'04.

73. MEDI-CAL FOR INELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

The state rejected the reinstatement of the Quarterly Status Report for the Medi-Cal Program, which would have saved about \$85 million General Fund per year by removing ineligible recipients from the caseload.

Savings: \$85 million per year

74. INEFFICIENT AND POLITICALLY CORRECT RESEARCH FUNDS

The state spreads \$6.5 million dollars over 19 research facilities while allowing 25 percent of the funds to be used on non-research items. The roughly \$25,000 left over at each facility wouldn't seem mean much when compared to the billions provided by the federal government and private foundations for research.

Savings: \$12.5 million total (\$6.5 million per year in matching funds).

75. MEDICAL CARE FOR THE NON NEEDY

A "CHDP Gateway" (Child Health and Disability Prevention Program), which will provide up to two months of pre-enrollment health care coverage even if the enrollment process is never completed and even if these children are later found to be ineligible.

Savings: \$231.5 million

76. DETERRENT TO LEAVE WELFARE ROLES

This state program provides an automatic extra year beyond what federal policy requires to provide extra welfare money to those who have acquired jobs

Savings: \$2 million per annually.

77. RECRUITING WELFARE PARTICIPANTS

The state actually advertises for welfare and almost forces people to accept services – for example, the state spends \$8.6 million on "outreach" for the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Programs.

Savings: \$8.6 million

78. BAILING OUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM-

The state continues to participate with the federal government in an unjustified bail-out of the LA County healthcare system. This is “throwing good money after bad”.

Savings: \$2 billion over five years

79. PAYING FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY PAY INCREASES

In spite of the budget shortfall the state is paying \$198,000 of LA County’s \$508,000 pay increase for licensing and certification contract.

Savings: \$198,000 annually.

80. STATE DOES NOT PURSUE ALL FEDERAL WAIVERS

The state does not request all available federal waivers; nor does it request all available federal funding.

Savings: Unknown

81. MOST EXPENSIVE SCHOOL NEVER USED

Beginning in 1995, LAUSD ignored multiple warnings of significant earthquake risk at the site of their Belmont Learning Center. After spending \$166 million on Belmont, the district faces either expensive retrofit on the incomplete project or total abandonment.

Money wasted: Over \$166 million.

82. PAY RAISES AND PAY FOR WORK NOT DONE

Less than a week after the Governor proposed \$1.7 billion in cuts to education, the San Francisco Unified School District granted its superintendent a 3 percent raise (to \$219,000 per year), 10 years of retirement “service credit” for 5 years work, and lifetime health benefits.

Money wasted: Unknown

83. PROPAGANDA AND INDOCTRINATION

Oakland Unified School District utilized valuable school instruction time to require ALL of its 1st through 12th grade students to attend a “teach in” against the war to liberate Iraq.

Money wasted: Unknown

84. DISREGARDING AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Oakland Unified School District is faced with the largest budget deficit (\$100 million) for a school district in the history of California, and possibly the nation, having failed to act on audit findings that revealed a need to improve the district’s financial management system.

Money wasted: At least \$100,000,000

85. UNION PREVENTING SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

School Union officials in LaCanada Unified School District are pressuring the district to stop using volunteers for a music instructor position, since it is a union job. The volunteers have run the instrumental music program for 19 years now, so nobody was laid off to fill this position.

Savings: \$80,000

86. FUNNELING MONEY TO FRIENDS

LA County Prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into whether the LAUSD overpaid \$74.5 million for a high-rise building in downtown Los Angeles to bail out its investors.

Savings: \$74,500,000

87. FUNDING \$92,000 A YEAR JOBS FOR UNION POLITICAL ACTIVISTS

Union Bosses squeeze classroom teachers to fund exorbitant union salaries. The California Teacher's Association professionals are the third highest in paid in the nation, earning on average \$92,000 per year. The teachers, who are paid by taxpayers, are required by state law to foot the bill.

Savings: Unknown

88. GROSS NEGLIGENCE RESULTS IN STATE BAILOUT

Despite numerous attempts at reform, the West Fresno Unified School District required a state bailout. Among the red flags at the district was the hiring of a convicted felon as a board assistant with fiscal oversight duties.

Savings: \$2,000,000

89. MORE SCHOOL AID FOR NON-CITIZENS

Democratic Assemblyman Calderon has proposed a bill to guarantee basic college aid to thousands of illegal residents.

Savings: Millions

90. UNIONS FORCING MORE EXPENSE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teachers unions in Sacramento filed a lawsuit to prevent the historically troubled Sacramento High School from becoming a charter school, resulting in delay and forcing the school district to incur unnecessary legal costs.

Savings: Unknown

91. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL HOUSING PLANNING MANDATE

This program has simply not worked.

Savings: \$3.5 million

92. FALSIFYING STUDENT ATTENDANCE

A recent study of the Los Angeles County Office of Education recommended that auditors investigate charges that workers falsified student attendance to garner government funding.

Savings: Unknown but potentially significant

93. PUTTING ADMINISTRATORS BEFORE CHILDREN

Irvine school district moves to protect administrative overhead positions instead of protecting class-size reduction from budget cuts.

Savings: Unknown

94. OAKLAND TEACHERS REFUSE TO PITCH IN –18% PAY RAISE NOT ENOUGH

Despite receipt of a 24 percent raise in 2000, teachers union representatives reject a 6 percent pay reduction in Oakland Unified School District, and indicate they will strike if not provided with a “reasonable plan.” The district must cut at least \$47 million from its budget for 2003-04.

Savings: \$18,000,000

95. PAYING SCHOOLS TO FAIL

Current state law would allow schools participating in the High Priority Schools/Immediate Intervention Underperforming Schools Program can participate in the programs and continue to get either \$200 or \$400 per pupil for up to seven years without meeting growth targets before sanctions are imposed upon them.

Savings: Hundreds of Millions of dollars

96. UNION BLACKMAIL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The same day the University of California revealed a breakthrough in contract negotiations with its clerical union, the union sued the university over information associated with the stewardship of pension funds, further complicating negotiations and increasing the costs of working with the union in a time of budget constraints.

Savings: Unknown

97. EXTENDING BENEFITS TO SAME SEX COUPLES

Teachers’ retirement system incurs major additional health and retirement benefits cost to provide for same sex couples.

Savings: Unknown

98. FEDERAL FINE FOR THE INEPTITUDE OF CHILD WELFARE BUREAUCRATS

These bureaucrats have earned the State of California a \$207 million dollar fine for not bringing their department into compliance with federal standards.

Savings: By coming into compliance a possible one \$207 million savings.

99. PASTEURIZED EGG SHELLS

Department of Health services is demanding that all facilities provide pasteurized eggs in the shell so residents can have eggs cooked over easy. Each egg costs over 35 cents, or more than double the average price of an unpasteurized egg.

Savings: Unknown

100. MARIJUANA INSTEAD OF CLASSROOMS

Despite numerous education budget cuts, the administration has provided \$3 million per year for the last three years to conduct marijuana research at the University of California.